



December 2025 | Volume 32, Issue 12

Library News and Events

Kennebunk Free Library Opening Late on December 17

The Kennebunk Free Library will be **opening half an hour late at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17** to give staff the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with colleagues. We wish everyone in our communities the happiest of holidays!



Fires are back!

The one perk of a cold winter is the chance to read a good book in front of a cozy fire. Beginning December 2, our fireplace will be lit every Tuesday and Wednesday until the end of March (or until warm weather returns, whichever comes first).

New: The Nook!



We are very excited to introduce you to the Nook, a sensory friendly workstation. It's the newest addition to KFL, thanks to the Remote Workers Grant we received through the **Maine State Library** two years ago. Padded walls provide a noise dampening effect and the feeling of privacy in a busy library. The light can be adjusted to your comfort level and the built-in charging station makes it a perfect place to work on your laptop. It's tucked behind the nonfiction section upstairs – come try it out!



KFL Gift Wrap Exchange - Through January 5

Our annual gift wrap exchange is underway! Come join us at Kennebunk Free Library **now through January 5**.

Have you been using the same wrapping paper for forever? Looking for something different this year, but are wary of adding another offering to the stacks of unfinished rolls in your closet/garage? Switch things up this holiday season without spending a dime and avoiding extra clutter!

There will be a box in the mezzanine labeled "Gift Wrap Exchange". Participation follows a **'take one, leave one'** policy. Other gift wrapping supplies besides wrapping paper are accepted as well. **

****Please follow this list as to what is accepted:**

- Unused wrapping paper that is still on the roll
 - Unused or gently used gift bags (no rips or tears, handles intact)
 - Unused ribbon still on the roll
 - Unused bows, tags/stickers
-

Library of Things! - Check out our Light Keeper Pro: Light Repair Kit



The Holidays are fast approaching! Make sure your lights are working and ready, as well as make any necessary repairs, with our Light Keeper Pro Repair Kit!



Happy Holidays to You!

We have some wonderful news to share regarding our 2025 Holiday Giving campaign.

George C. and Diantha C. Harrington, an anonymous donor, and KFL's Board of Trustees have come together to create the \$20,000 Holiday Giving Challenge Fund! When Holiday Giving donations reach **\$45,000**, the Challenge Fund will be unlocked and KFL will receive this incredible **\$20,000 Challenge Gift**—instantly amplifying the power of every contribution. [Click here to read the complete Holiday Giving letter.](#)

Please join us as we come together to reach our goal of \$45,000 before December 31, 2025! Making a difference during the season of giving feels great and couldn't be easier. Simply send in your check, click on the **Give Now** ♥ tab on our website, or the button below to make your donation today.

Thank you for sharing your ♥ with KFL during this season of giving.

[Give Now ♥](#)



KFL Friends Holiday Book Sale - December 5 through 13

Stock up on some gently used books for your holiday gifting! The Friends of KFL will be hosting a pop-up book sale in front of the adult circulations desk from **December 5 through 13**. The sale will be restocked regularly so check back if you don't find what you are looking for.



A Message from the Friends of KFL

Annual Membership for 2026 has begun! You can get a form at the adult circulation desk or at this [link](#). We will do a mailing to all 2025 members that don't renew before the end of the year. Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership!

Friends of KFL had a great 2025 and each one of you is appreciated. Your community spirit, willingness to help in whatever way possible, book sorting/sale participation, helping with mailers and general support of Kennebunk Free Library is beautiful. Next year, 2026, should be just as much fun!

Our next meeting of the Friends will be **Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** at KFL or on Zoom if the weather is wintry.

All the best to each of you as you celebrate the season.

If you would like to join the Friends of KFL you will be welcomed! [Here is the link for more information.](#)



Monthly Phone Wallpaper

Looking to change up your phone background? Like our Newsletter Banner? [Download our monthly phone wallpaper](#) and match with us! New backgrounds every month! [E-mail Amelia for assistance.](#)

To download to your phone, tap 'Download' as highlighted in the newsletter on your mobile device. Follow the link. Once you arrive at the download page from our calendar, tap and hold on the image, then select 'Save to Photos'. The image will be saved to your 'Photo Gallery' and you can change your wallpaper from there.

Adult Programs

Reader's Choice Book Group - December 1

Reader's Choice Book Club will meet on **Monday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Walker Room at the library, and **our theme will be: A Snowy Mystery.**

How does this book club work? You choose your own book to read, based on the monthly theme, and then join us for a casual and fun conversation. Everyone is welcome!



Keep Your Candle Burning: The Art of Resilience in Tough Times - December 2

What does it take to sustain hope in the face of crisis? Drawing on two decades of humanitarian experience, local author Sarah Petrin offers practical insights on personal resilience and burnout prevention. Through stories from *Bring Rain: Helping Humanity in Crisis*, Petrin shares how to stay grounded while serving the needs of people at home and abroad. This talk offers practical strategies for emotional well-being, fostering renewal, and keeping faith in humanity. Join us at the Kennebunk Free Library on **Tuesday, December 2 at 6 p.m.** for stories of hope and renewal!

Sarah Petrin is a humanitarian expert, educator, and author with over twenty years of experience in international crisis response and peacebuilding. She has advised the United Nations, NATO, and the U.S. Army on protecting civilians in conflict, and has worked in over 20 countries. She is the President and Board Chair of the World Affairs Council of Maine. Her mission is to help people live with purpose, compassion, and courage — wherever they are.



Castlebay Fireside Holiday Concert - December 3

What could be cozier than spending a winter evening in the library with a crackling fire, a glass of wine, some sugary treats, and a talented folk duo playing holiday music? We cordially invite you to join us in the Parsons Reading Room at KFL on **Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.** for a holiday concert with Castlebay.

Who is Castlebay?

Since 1986 Castlebay has been weaving together Maine's nautical and British Isles legacies transporting their audience through time and across the Atlantic. Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee have loved and researched traditional music for most of their lives and blend history, legend and experience into their personable performances. Finely crafted ballads with evocative imagery and beautiful melodies depict Maine characters, history, and life close to the elemental beauty of the

sea and shore. Rich and exuberant renditions of traditional and original songs are supported with Celtic harp, 12-string guitar, fiddle & woodwinds.

Julia Lane, singer, songwriter, and folklorist, has been playing the Celtic harp since 1989. Self-taught, she rapidly became a skilled and exciting player, winning the Senior Professional division at the New Hampshire Scottish Games Harp Competition in 1990 and 1991 and the International Irish Harp Competition at Stonehill College in 1992. Her vocals have been compared favorably to Judy Collins and Jean Redpath. Julia has done extensive research in folksong archives throughout New England.

Fred Gosbee, singer, songwriter, and storyteller, plays classic and 12-string guitar, violin, viola and Irish flute. He learned many traditional songs from his family, who worked as lumbermen in the forests of New Brunswick and Maine. His original songs have been sung and recorded by other artists. Fred has engineered most of Castlebay's recordings and has also built Julia's harps and many other instruments.

Experience

Castlebay has toured the Eastern US and Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, and Kosovo performing at festivals, museums, schools and folk clubs. They have released over three dozen recordings which. Notable festival experience includes five International Festivals of the Sea in the UK, the Mystic Sea Music Festival, the New Bedford Working Waterfront Festival, the Golden Link Festival, and the Somerset Folk Harp Festival. Since 2003 they have annually toured the east coast in the late winter from their home in coastal Maine to Florida, performing in libraries, concert series, folk clubs, retirement communities, and house concerts.



Afternoon Tea and GingerToast Houses (18+ Only) - December 6

Join us on **Saturday, December 6 at 3 p.m.** for afternoon tea and this year's take on gingerbread house decorating! This year, we will be using toast to make our holiday houses. Relax, channel your inner child, you're never too old to play with your food! There will be holiday music and tea to enjoy as well. Bring a friend, or come and make some new ones, either way we hope to see you there! This is a **18+ only event, limited spaces available, and [registration is required](#)**. Click the link provided, visit our website, or call the library for more information or

to register.

For those with food allergies, please see food item list below:

- Bread
- Butter
- Cinnamon
- Light Brown Sugar
- Pam (butter-spray)
- Tea

Die Well Death Education - December 8

If you missed the first series of the Die Well Death Education Series at KFL, you have another chance to participate. It was



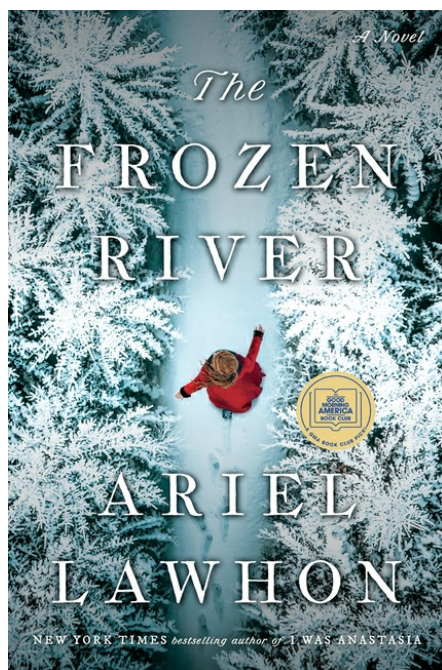
so well received, we are offering the entire series again this year.

Join us at Kennebunk Free Library on **Monday, December 8 at 1 p.m.** for the second session in the new year-long Die Well Death Education Series with host Leona Oceania. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions. No registration is required.

Session Two: Film: Barbara Karnes's 'This is How People Die - Part One: Natural process of Dying from Disease & Old Age' - This is How People Die addresses the normal dying process, from months before death through the actual moment of death. This film provides the knowledge and tools for working with the

end of life, presented with non-medical terminology. It is a practical guide for working with anyone facing end-of-life issues. Part One will cover: role models for dying, dying being a normal and natural part of life, ways to die, dying development compared to infant development, dying dynamics, and 3-4 months before death on a continuum, etc. (2017 - 66 minutes) Open discussion to follow as time allows.

*Individually wrapped, homemade skull cakelets will be provided.



Fiction Book Discussion - December 9

Join us on **Tuesday, December 9 at 1 p.m.** to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

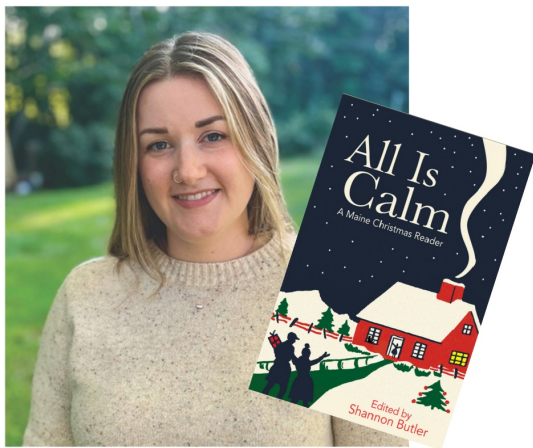
The Fiction Book Discussion will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of December.

"In 1789 Maine, midwife and healer Martha Ballard, who is good at keeping secrets, investigates a shocking murder linked to an alleged rape that has shaken her small town, especially when her diary lands at the center of the scandal, threatening to tear both her family and her community apart." -Novelist



Ukulele Group - December 10

Join us on the **second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m.** to make some music in the library! Ukulele players of all skill levels are invited to stop in to play along. We will be choosing songs to play each month from *The Daily Ukulele: 365 Songs for Better Living*. Ukuleles and songbooks are available to check out from the library.



Fireside Christmas Storytime with author Shannon Butler - December 10

On **Wednesday, December 10 at 6 p.m.**, settle in by the fire at Kennebunk Free Library with a warm drink and a tasty snack to hear author Shannon Butler read stories from her book *All Is Calm: A Maine Christmas Reader*.

“When many people think of Christmas they dream of snow covered pine trees and a small cabin warmed by the wood fire on a cold December day. Since Maine was founded, people have written stories about the joys of Christmas in the state. In times of hardship

and in times of wealth, Maine and her people have always put the value of Christmas in time shared with family and friends, connections with the natural world, rich traditions, and warm wood stoves.

In a collection featuring essays, stories, and poetry, *All Is Calm* is a look at the lives of Mainers during the holidays from the mid-1800s, to the Great Depression, to modern day. Spanning nearly 200 years, these stories show that while Christmas traditions and trends may be changing, the warmth, gratitude, and humility of the Maine spirit is evergreen.”



Evening Readers Choice Book Club - December 10

Our Evening Reader's Choice Book Club will meet **Wednesday, December 10 at 6 p.m.** in the Walker Room on the main floor of the library.

December's Theme is "Animals"

The Reader's Choice format allows readers to select any book that fits this month's theme. Readers can select from fiction or non-fiction, adult books, young adult, or children's, and everything in between. We hope you'll join us!



Cook and Share Cookbook Club - December 17

Welcome to our Cookbook Club! You are invited to join us **every third Wednesday at 3 p.m.**! We will gather to celebrate food through various dishes and themes!

How does it work? Make any type of dish from a favorite cookbook or a new one that you have been wanting to try, then bring it in to share! Every month we will have a different theme.

This month we will be meeting on **Wednesday, December 17** and our **theme** will be **Cookies!** It's that time of year to indulge our sweet tooth a little and what better way to do so

than to make some delicious treats? You do not have to limit yourself to just cookies either, any type of sweet treat is welcomed!

Bring along the cookbook or recipe, so we can discuss it and go over all things food! Utensils, plates and napkins will be provided!

Please email Becca at rlong@kennebunklibrary.org to let her know you will be attending.



Beginner Mah Jongg Classes - Thursdays in January

Plans are being made for our 4th Beginner Mah Jongg class to be held on **Thursdays January 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.**.. **Preregistration is required and is limited to 20 participants**. Our ongoing group of players look forward to new people that have learned the basics. We play on Fridays from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Observers are always welcome. Come join us to enjoy this game of mental exercise, meet new people and just have some fun.



Take and Make - Napkin Rings

Need a last minute gift? Come pick up our December Adult Take and Make: Napkin Rings! Make them yourself and gift them, gift the craft itself, or gift them to yourself. Limited supplies, **available starting December 10** (while supplies last).



Trivia Night - See you after the Holidays!

There will be **no Trivia for the month of December**. We will see you again after the Holidays!



In Stitches - Tuesdays

Do you love to knit? Crochet? Sew? Have you always wanted to learn? Do you have an unfinished project hidden on the closet shelf? Then join us **every Tuesday at 11 a.m.** for "In Stitches", our weekly handicrafts group! Grab that half-finished project and enjoy the company of others while you work; all skill levels are welcome. Feel free to stop by for a few minutes or stay the whole hour.



Drop-in Craft and Chat - Tuesday Evenings

Join us and express your creativity in our weekly evening group, Craft and Chat. This drop-in group will take place weekly in the library **on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m.** Join us in a relaxed atmosphere with other creative people of all skill levels. Explore your creativity with whatever your passion is: handicrafts, journaling, sketching or doodling, coloring, crocheting, embroidery or knitting - all are welcomed! Please bring in any portable project you are working on along with your own supplies. You are free to stop by for a few minutes or stay the whole hour.

This program is free and wheelchair accessible. The Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main Street in Kennebunk, Maine. For more information please call 207-985-2173 or email us at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org.



Tech Talk Line - Tuesday Evenings

Are you stuck on a technology question, but can't visit the library during its regularly scheduled Technology Time Appointments? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having someone's help to guide your troubleshooting efforts, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To use our **Tech Talk Line**, all you need to do is call downstairs to the Children's Room to speak with our Technology Educator, Emmaline. Our Tech Talk Line will be open every Tuesday night from **5 to 6:30 p.m.** Calls can

include, but are not limited to, using smartphones and tablets, navigating websites or emails, or accessing digital library resources. Support will be provided on a **first-come, first-served** basis for issues that can be addressed in **10 minutes or less**. If the line is busy during a call, please leave a voicemail so we can get back to you accordingly. If during a session we determine that the issue requires more time than 10 minutes, we can schedule a 45-minute Tech Time appointment on Wednesday or Thursday, allowing for in-person, one-on-one assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program, please feel free to visit us at the desk, call (207) 985-2173, or email our technology educator at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org so we can help you further.



Tech Time - Wednesdays & Thursdays

Are you stuck on a technology question that might need some extra help to be solved? Whether it be trying to use one of the library's digital services, making heads or tails of a new device, or just having a second pair of eyes help you troubleshoot your next steps, don't worry, the library is here to help!

To sign up for one of our Tech Time appointments, please visit the front desk to be placed on our scheduling sheet.

Appointments to meet one-on-one with our Technology

Educator can be **scheduled Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m..** Appointments are **45 minutes long**, but there is always an opportunity to schedule a follow-up appointment if we run over our time limit. When setting up the appointment, help us to better assist you by describing the issue you want to discuss. If possible, also make sure to bring your charged device with you, along with any needed usernames and passwords. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to visit us at the desk, call (207) 985-2173, or email our technology educator at kfl@kennebunklibrary.org so we can help you further.



Mah Jongg - Wednesdays and Fridays

Everyone is invited to drop in on **Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** or **Fridays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.** to play Mah Jongg. The library has **4 sets** available for use or you are welcome to bring your own. Don't know how to play? You're welcome to watch and learn. Want lessons? **Future newsletters will announce a wintertime beginner class signup.** We can also share some resources for learning on your own. Please [email the library](#) with any questions.



Grief Group - Thursday Afternoons

KFL is now hosting a weekly Grief Group, led by retired RN Carol MacLeod. **Every Thursday morning from 11 to 12:30 p.m..**

Due to the holiday closure, Grief Group is canceled December 25.

Because of the sensitive nature and confidentiality of this group, and for more information, please contact Carol MacLeod (Facilitator) before joining.

Her email is mugbob66@gmail.com and her number is (207)-468-0668.



Improv - Saturdays

Improv - Sessions will be held **every Saturday from 10:30 to 12 p.m.**

Improv is canceled December 20, 27, and January 3.

We'll see you after the holidays!

Teen Programs



Book-ish Activities in the Teen Room!

The teen space in the library is full of bookish activities for you to do beginning December 1st, and it's the place to be for all things literary right now! Whether you're flying solo or hanging out with friends, you can do these activities at your own pace, so no rush, and no pressure. Here's a sneak peek at the activities we have planned for you this month:

Winter Break Punch Card

Are you looking for a fun, bookish way to spend your Winter Break? Starting on **Monday, December 22**, come to the library to pick up a punchcard full of cozy

literary challenges. For each challenge or activity you complete, hole punch or cross out a snowflake on the card. Once all of the snowflakes are punched out, return it to the Children's Desk by January 5th to receive a prize!

2026 YA Book Advent Calender

Starting on December 22, each day leading up to the New Year we will unveil a book we are adding to our YA collection in 2026. We hope you will be as excited as we are about these upcoming additions to our collection!

Have you gingerbread READ these books?

Do you ever do such a good job decorating your gingerbread cookie that you're reluctant to eat it? You won't have to worry about that with these paper gingerbread people available to decorate in the teen room. Put your creativity and imagination to work to decorate these gingerbread as your favorite characters—whether they're from a book, movie, tv show, or game! Once decorated, write the character name on the back and tape it to one of the windows by its head, so other patrons can try to guess the character. We can't wait to see what you create!

Light Up the Library with Kindness

Be the light in others' lives by spreading cheer and kindness this holiday season. On one of the colorful paper bulbs in the Teen Room, write down an act of kindness you've either done, received, or witnessed and add it to the string above the windows. Inspire and take inspiration from these bulbs and bring some warmth to a chilly season.

Book Page Snowflakes

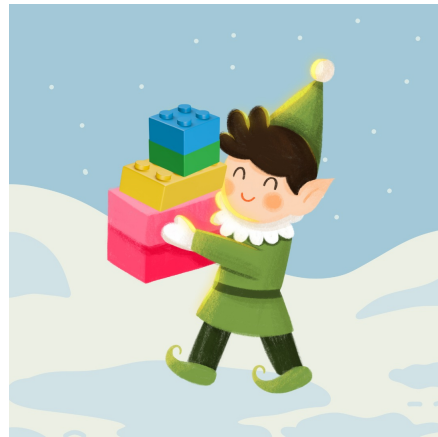
As the weather starts to turn, help us transform the Teen Room into a winter wonderland with book page snowflakes! Simply take a provided page from an old book, fold, and cut! Feel free to place them on the windows and walls to bring winter to life!

If you have any questions about these programs, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Take and Make: Felt Book Ornaments

Seasons Readings! Make the perfect bookish ornament this holiday season with our December take-and-make! Using felt, ribbon, and glue, you can make either three individual felt book ornaments or a stack of books to hang up on your tree, or wherever else you'd like! Feel free to add text to the inside pages in marker or decorate the front cover however you choose. These kits will be **available starting on Monday, December 1st**, in the Teen Room. Supplies are first come, first served. If you have any questions, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!



Teen Lego Build Displays: No Place Like Home for the Holidays! - December 1

There's no place like home for the holidays, and we need your help to decorate our Lego House for the festivities! **Starting December 1**, we will have 3 different themes each week for you to choose from to deck the halls with some cozy holiday magic. Once you have completed your amazing Lego creation or creations, please add them to our collaborative Lego House display. Just be careful of other people's creations while you are making your additions, and also make sure to leave enough legos for everyone else to have fun too. Miss Emmaline and Miss Claudia are super excited to showcase

your work and to create something special for the happy holidays with you! If you have any questions, just reach out to Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia in the children's room, or give us a call at (207) 985-2173. We can't wait to see what you come up with!



Dungeons and Dragons - December 1, 15, 22, and 29

Welcome, young adventurers! Come and join in on an exciting quest in the world of Dungeons and Dragons. In the midst of our Infinite School Year Campaign, we are getting closer than ever to discovering the Time Loop Mystery, and potentially putting a halt to its destruction. We last left off with our heroes in the Canyons of Carceri, in the Sunken Castle where we

encountered Lynx, a key member of the Driders of Lolth. With our newfound information, where to

next? Will we report back to the Rotten Horde, or will we go rogue? It's up to our heroes to decide! This month, we will be meeting on **Mondays: December 1, 15, 22, and 29 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** The library will provide all supplies, just bring your imagination! This program is dedicated to players who are familiar with the world and mechanics of Dungeons and Dragons. If you are a new player, we will host a **Session 0 on the first meeting of the month, December 1 at 3 p.m., 30 minutes before our first gaming session.** *This session is required for new players to create their character and to participate in the campaign.* This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Pokemon Club - December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Welcome to the Kennebunk Free Library Pokémon Gym! We will be meeting on **Tuesdays: December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 3:15 to 4 p.m.** to hang out with friends, eat some snacks, and catch 'em all. This program is primarily dedicated to Pokémon card battles, but all Pokémon formats can be played during our meeting times. The library will have cards for you to use, but you are encouraged to bring your own decks for battles and trading. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss

Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Teen Magic the Gathering Night - December 11

Looking to test out your new Magic the Gathering deck with friends? Join us to play on **December 11 from 3:15 to 4 p.m.!** There will be cards available to make a deck, but if you have your own, we encourage you to bring them! This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!

DIY Holiday Gift Making - December 13

Are you running out of time to get gifts this holiday season? Do you want to give someone something personal, handcrafted by you? Stop by the Teen Room on **Saturday, December 13th, anytime from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.** to make a gift for your loved ones. We'll have a variety of supplies available, from beads to yarn to gems and much more! You can let your creativity go wild and create your own, one-of-



a-kind gift, or, if you're stuck on ideas, we'll have a few examples and instructions for you to choose from. Feel free to make multiple creations. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, ask Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you here!

TEEN SCIENCE CAFE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



Teen Science Cafe - December 19

Looking for an opportunity to earn your volunteer hours, build your resume, and also grab a free slice of pizza? KFL is excited to announce that we've joined the Teen Science Café Cohort, and we're inviting you to help us lead and design STEM events with your peers here at the library. Designed by teens for teens, Teen Science Cafes bring together local scientists and students, grades 6-12 to explore new research and discuss what inspires and influences people to pursue careers in STEM with interactive lessons and activities. For our next meeting, this event will be held on **December 19 between 3:15 and 4:45 p.m.** Oh, and did we mention that there's also going to be pizza? This event is free, the space is wheelchair

accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!



Dungeons and Dragons Marathon: The Enchantment of Windhallow - December 31

Many merry greetings to you all, young travelers! This holiday season, we are going on an exciting quest to countdown to the New Year with a Dungeons and Dragons Marathon! Set in the wintery world of Windhallow, the royal family of Avalan urgently requests your help to defend their kingdom from the evil sorceress Elore. With our coziest sweaters and hot cocoas in hand, the adventure awaits! This session is **registration required**, and will be held on **Wednesday, December 31, 1:30 to 4 p.m.** The library will provide all supplies, just bring your imagination! *This program is for rookie and seasoned players who are familiar with the world and mechanics*

of Dungeons and Dragons. This event is free, the space is wheelchair accessible, and it is open to Teens ages 10 and up. If you have any questions, see Miss Emmaline or Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173. We look forward to seeing you there!

Children's Programs



Ornament Making Madness! - December 2

Join us **3:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2** to make a salt dough ornament to celebrate the festive season! Choose to paint a premade ornament or make your own to take home and decorate!



Beadcraft - December 3

In the mood to get creative? Perler Beads - tiny plastic beads that can melt - were first introduced as a craft in Sweden in the 1950's, and we still love them! Children ages 6 and up, or age 5 with a caregiver, are invited to join us for an afternoon of beading fun on **Wednesday, December 3, at 1 p.m.** What a great way to spend an afternoon! Design suggestions will be offered, but creativity is encouraged! All craft materials will be provided. [Registration](#) is recommended but not required.



Take-Home Gingerbread Person Decorating - December 4

The gingerbread person cookies are coming back to Kennebunk Free Library! During the month of December, we will have all the supplies you need to decorate a gingerbread person. Kits will be available starting Thursday, December 4, and will be available while supplies last. Decorating a gingerbread person will encourage spatial visualization and problem solving, not to mention artistic creativity! Each kit will include a gingerbread person, icing, and some candies to decorate with. Kits will be available downstairs in the Children's Room. Be sure to take a picture of your creation and email it to us at ys@kennebunklibrary.org! We will share the photos on our social media pages. We can't wait to see your gingerbread person!



Nutcracker Soirée - December 4

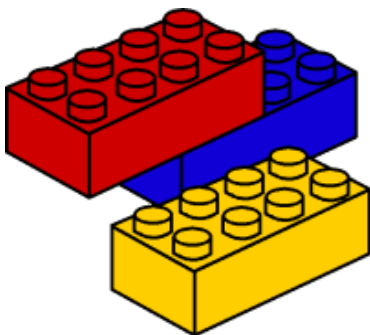
Kick off your holiday season with a fun afternoon of dancing, crafting, and celebrating the classic tale of *The Nutcracker*! On **Thursday, December 4th, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.**, join us to listen to *The Nutcracker* story, learn a dance to a song from *The Nutcracker* ballet, and do some crafts inspired by your favorite characters in the tale. And, of course, it wouldn't be a Nutcracker party without some treats from the Land of Sweets! Feel free to dress in anything ballet, Nutcracker, or holiday inspired. We can't wait to see you there! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required. If you have any questions, see Miss Claudia downstairs in the children's room, or call (207) 985-2173.



Kindness Crew - December 9

In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Join us for our next meeting of Kindness Crew on **Tuesday, December 9, at 3:45 p.m.** Come hear a story about kindness and make a craft! In December, we'll be sharing a story and making a craft all about giving. This program is open to ages 6 and up; **registration** is appreciated but not required! Kindness has no age requirement – if a friend younger than 6 would like to join in, please reach out to Miss Maria at: mrichardson@kennebunklibrary.org, or 985-2173 x 105.

Caregivers are encouraged to join in! When your little sees you talking about and practicing kindness, they will want to join in even more!



Lego Club - December 26

Ready to get building? Kennebunk Free Library is offering a Lego Club for children ages 4 and older. Lego Club will meet on **Thursday, December 26, from 3:45-4:30 p.m.** Come and build new and imaginative creations or ask the librarian for a challenge to complete. All Lego blocks will be supplied; please leave yours at home. **Registration** is appreciated.

Winter Wonderland Storytime - December 29

Let's make Storytime special during vacation week! On Monday, December 29, at 10am, join us for an extra



special Winter Wonderland Storytime! We'll do all our favorite Storytime things – shaker eggs, scarves, and, of course, Ami the Bunny puppet will join us – plus some special things. After Storytime, we'll enjoy hot chocolate and activities. Come celebrate winter with us! Storytimes are designed for ages 2-5, but everyone is welcome! This event is free and wheelchair accessible. Kennebunk Free Library is located at 112 Main St., Kennebunk. For more information, please call 985-2173.



Drop-in Crafts - December 30

Are you ready to get crafty? Come to Kennebunk Free Library on **Tuesday, December 30 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.** to make a craft or two! All ages are welcome to attend. No registration required.



New Years Even Pajama Party - December 31

Happy 2026! A new start is fun, but it's tough to stay up late! Instead of trying to make it until midnight, join us for a pajama party at Kennebunk Free Library on **Wednesday, December 31 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** We'll have a fun craft or two, yummy treats, and space to dance. Just for fun, we'll count down to 3pm! Party activities will be geared towards ages 3-10, but everyone is welcome!



Storytime - Mondays

Hello, friends! It's time for Storytime! Come to the library for stories, songs, and fun with Miss Maria! We'll even get to say hello to our puppet friend, Ami the bunny. On **Mondays in December at 10 a.m.**, Storytimes will be held in Hank's Room at Kennebunk Free Library. We can't wait for you to join us!

Upcoming Storytime dates include:

- December 1
- December 8

- December 15
- December 22
- December 29 Winter Wonderland Storytime!



Family Fun Play - Thursdays

Have a morning of play at the library! **On most Thursday mornings in December**, Kennebunk Free Library will bring out the toys for a library play date. These toys are best enjoyed when kids and their grown-ups play together! Before we say goodbye until next time, Miss Maria will read a story. Come play and make new friends at the library! **Playtime starts at 10 a.m. and Miss Maria will read a story at 11 a.m.**, but feel free to drop in anytime! We usually leave the special toys out until around 11:30. Thursday Family Fun Play is for children ages 0-5 and their grown-ups. No registration is required. **Due to the holiday closure, Thursday Family Fun Play is canceled on Thursday, December 25.**

Upcoming Thursday Family Fun Play dates:

- December 4
- December 11
- December 18
- **December 25 Canceled**

Speers Gallery



December Artist:

The Speers Gallery at the Kennebunk Free Library presents **“Homage to Home”, an exhibit by local photographer Alissa Kruszenski showing December 1-31.**

Alissa is a self-taught photographer specializing in landscape and nature photography of southern Maine. Her passion for photography began when she was 12 years old and borrowed her mom’s camera to take a picture of the USS George H.W. Bush from Walker’s point. She began noticing the blooming flowers, the sparkling water, and the photography spark ignited. Alissa says “Life is made up of so many moments that we tend to overlook. I use nature and landscape photography to capture the magic in the mundane, moments in time that we tend to take for granted or miss entirely.”

Alissa’s photographs have been shown in *Town & Tourist*, as well as the Friends of Rachel Carson 2023 and 2024 calendars. Her show at KFL will be her first gallery debut.

Kennebunk Free Library is pleased to show the work of this talented photographer.

The public is invited to view the exhibit in the library's Speers Gallery from December 1 through 31 at 112 Main St., Kennebunk, Maine during regular library hours when the gallery is not in use for library programs. Please check the library website for current hours and gallery access, www.kennebunklibrary.org.

New Books, Audio Books & DVDs

Please note that the new items lists below are updated regularly, but through a quirk of the system, the newest items go to the end of the list. If you want to see the newest arrivals, start on the last page and work your way backward.

[Click here](#) for a look at books that arrived in the last month.

[Click here](#) for audio/video that arrived in the last month.

[Click here](#) for new children's items that arrived in the last month

[Click here](#) for new teen items that arrived in the last month

Popular New Reads**

**You may have noticed that we haven't had as many recent bestsellers and high-demand items in our collection lately. There has been a bit of drama in library world in the last couple of months that affected our ability to order books. Our book supplier, one of the largest suppliers for public libraries in the U.S., had reached a deal to be acquired by another organization. When the sale fell through, they just stopped fulfilling orders without any notice to customers. Other booksellers have been busy trying to fill the void left behind. We have established an account with a new vendor and are expecting orders to start coming in again in the next couple of weeks. We have already been getting some books in, so hopefully this will be resolved by next month! Thank you so much for your patience as we adjust to a new process.

A Message from the Director



This month I have an update regarding November's *Message from the Director* where I spoke about book purchasing issues due to our supplier, Baker & Taylor, shutting down. While we have set up an account with an alternative large-scale supplier, there are still gaps in coverage. The good news is that we've found an amazing, local option. As KFL's November 1, social media post says, *We can't thank our friends at Octopus Bookshop enough for helping us get popular items back on the shelf while we work through our new processes! Black Wolf is already in our patrons' hands. The other books will be joining them as soon as we get them in the catalog. We are so excited to have a*

beautiful bookshop just down the street!

Thank you, [Octopus Bookshop](#)!

Sincerely,
Michelle

Pictured: Recent book purchases from Octopus Bookshop.

Staff Picks

Kat, Substitute Library Assistant (and KFL Friends)

Floored – A Woman's Guide to Pelvic Floor Health at Every Age and Stage by Dr. Sara Reardon

This is the most important book that I read in 2025. I only wish I had this valuable information 50 years ago. So many women suffer because we have never been taught about the proper way to care for this vital part of our anatomy. The author points out that we are taught the details and value of proper dental health, but information about “down there” is almost always overlooked. A quick look at this book convinced me that it was going to be useful. I recognize myself and other women on its pages
(Available book from KFL)

Other Wise by Mary Lou Bagley

A delightful work of fiction by a Maine author takes you into the life of sixty-two-year-old Margaret Meader who has the gift of precognition. This makes life very difficult now and haunts her from the past in her small town. I truly enjoyed the writer's style, the characters, the sweet romance and the love scenes. Her description of walking in nature is a mental vacation in a place of beauty and solace. Recommended to me by a KFL staff member.

(Available from Minerva)

Abundance by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson

Talk to just about anyone and you will probably find agreement that our country has huge problems and is not getting our money's worth for tax dollars that are spent attempting to address our concerns of homelessness, crumbling infrastructure, dealing with climate changes, etc. This book looks at how both liberals and conservatives have created this, each in their own way, and how, together we can work toward a politics of abundance.

(Available as a book and audio cd from Minerva, audio and ebook from Libby)

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